

light
HAS
Come

GENESIS
COMMUNITY CHURCH

purpose of this guide

Christmas is all about Jesus. He is the reason we gather and He alone is the reason we scatter, taking the hope, peace, joy, and love that we have found in Him to the ends of the earth.

Not only is Jesus the reason for the Christmas season, but He is the central figure in all human history.

The Gospel of John proclaims:

"The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone."

Light has come. The beauty and power of this Light is that it forever changes everything and all people for all time.

This Christmas season, we will consider afresh Jesus—the Light of the world. We will consider not only His birth, but also the totality of His life. The Gospel of John will serve as our guide throughout this season as we explore the characteristics that make Jesus, the Light of the world, the most incredible man that ever lived.

Our hope within this Advent devotional is to shine the spotlight on the brightest light that ever shined, that one solitary life that changed the face of human history once and for all time. And the Good News is that He is still changing human beings today—one life at a time!

WE HOPE YOU ENJOY OUR ADVENT DEVOTIONAL.

One Solitary Life

BY JAMES ALLEN FRANCIS

He was born in an obscure village
The child of a peasant woman
He grew up in another obscure village
Where he worked in a carpenter shop
Until he was thirty when public opinion turned against him
He never wrote a book
He never held an office
He never went to college
He never visited a big city
He never travelled more than two hundred miles
From the place where he was born
He did none of the things
Usually associated with greatness
He had no credentials but himself

He was only thirty-three

His friends ran away
One of them denied him
He was turned over to his enemies
And went through the mockery of a trial
He was nailed to a cross between two thieves
While dying, his executioners gambled for his clothing
The only property he had on earth

When he was dead
He was laid in a borrowed grave
Through the pity of a friend

Nineteen centuries have come and gone
And today Jesus is the central figure of the human race
And the leader of mankind's progress
All the armies that have ever marched
All the navies that have ever sailed
All the parliaments that have ever sat
All the kings that ever reigned put together
Have not affected the life of mankind on earth
As powerfully as that one solitary life

The background is a dark teal or forest green color, filled with numerous out-of-focus, warm-toned circular lights. These lights vary in size and brightness, creating a bokeh effect that suggests a festive or nighttime setting. The lights are scattered across the entire frame, with some appearing as sharp, bright circles and others as softer, more diffused glows.

*week
one*

Day one

knowing

Jesus is divine—Jesus is and always
has been fully God.

*"In the beginning the Word already existed.
The Word was with God, and the Word was
God. He existed in the beginning with God.
God created everything through him, and
nothing was created except through him."*

— John 1:1-3

being

If everything was created through Him,
what claim does He lay upon my life?
What does it look like to be fully His?

doing

What things can you do today to show
others that Jesus is divine?

Day Two

knowing

Jesus comes—Jesus is the anointed one,
the holy one of God, who came to take
away the sins of the world.

*"The one who is the true light, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He came into the very world he created, but the world didn't recognize him. He came to his own people, and even they rejected him. But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God."
— John 1:9-12*

being

What privileges come with being a child of God?

doing

How might God use you today to show others how amazing our Father is?

Day three

knowing

Jesus is faithful—Jesus is faithful and true to His people. This is shown in His character, actions, and made evident by His coming.

"So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness."

- John 1:14a

being

As a follower of Christ, how are you growing in your understanding of God's Faithfulness in Christ?

doing

As a follower of Christ, how does your life demonstrate Jesus' unfailing love and faithfulness towards others?

Day four

knowing

Jesus is gracious—Jesus extends unmerited favor and uninhibited relationship with people who were separated from God and could not find their way back to Him.

“From his abundance we have all received one gracious blessing after another. For the law was given through Moses, but God’s unfailing love and faithfulness came through Jesus Christ.”

– John 1:16-17

being

What does it mean to be loved out of abundance? Where can a person find an abundant source of love?

doing

How can we be so full that we love others out of abundance? Name a few people who God might want you to love like that.

Day five

knowing

Jesus gets angry—Jesus had an unwavering opposition to evil. Evil made Him angry! But He did not allow that anger to lead Him into sin.

"In the Temple area he saw merchants selling cattle, sheep, and doves for sacrifices; he also saw dealers at tables exchanging foreign money. Jesus made a whip from some ropes and chased them all out of the Temple. He drove out the sheep and cattle, scattered the money changers' coins over the floor, and turned over their tables. Then, going over to the people who sold doves, he told them, 'Get these things out of here. Stop turning my Father's house into a marketplace!'"

— John 2:14-16

being

What makes you angry? What makes Jesus angry?
Do you get angry over the same things Jesus did?

doing

How does anger over sin lead us so that our bodies, God's temple, can be purified? How can you leverage anger in holy ways? (Jesus' anger caused Him to purify God's temple. His anger did not cause Him to sin.)

Day six

knowing

Jesus has authority—Jesus has the right and the authority to speak and act on God’s behalf, because God has given Him total authority.

*“The Father loves His Son and
has put everything into His hands.”
– John 3:35*

being

What things are we comfortable putting into God’s hands? What things are a challenge for us to give up?

doing

If Jesus has total authority, and we are His children, how can we demonstrate a quiet confidence in God today?

Day seven

knowing

Jesus is fully human—The Bible shows us the full humanity of Jesus. Although sinless, Jesus shared in our condition, including going through suffering and death.

"Jacob's well was there; and Jesus, tired from the long walk, sat wearily beside the well about noontime. Soon a Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Please give me a drink.'"
— John 4:6-7

being

Why was it important that Jesus was fully human?
How does that help you relate to Him?

doing

In Christ we have become a new sort of human, one who now has the Spirit of God living inside of them. What is one thing you can do to live out that new persona today?

The background of the image is a dark teal or forest green color, filled with numerous out-of-focus, warm-toned circular lights. These lights vary in size and brightness, creating a bokeh effect that suggests a festive or nighttime setting, possibly with string lights or candles. The overall mood is cozy and celebratory.

week
two

Day eight

knowing

Jesus is just and merciful—Justice is when people get what they most deserve. Mercy is when people do not get what they deserve. Jesus demonstrated justice and mercy by taking upon Himself the penalty we deserve (justice) and giving us the reward for obedience we did not earn (mercy). His radical and beautiful sense of justice and mercy came from God, who offers both.

*"I can do nothing on my own. I judge as God tells me. Therefore, my judgment is just, because I carry out the will of the one who sent me, not my own will."
— John 5:30*

being

What would our relationships look like if we always got what we deserved? Why is mercy so necessary?

doing

Who are a few people in your life who deserve justice?
How can you show them mercy today?

Day nine

knowing

Jesus saves—Jesus perfectly lived out God's mission on this earth and demonstrates God's loving heart toward sinners.

*"And this is the will of God, that I should not lose even one of all those he has given me, but that I should raise them up at the last day. For it is my Father's will that all who see his Son and believe in him should have eternal life. I will raise them up at the last day."
— John 6:39-40*

being

If Jesus cannot lose us, why do we often feel lost?
What does a found life look like?

"Found people find people" — Perry Nobel

doing

Name one lost person in your life who needs to be found. What steps are you willing to take to help them be found by God?

Day ten

knowing

Jesus is holy—Jesus stands apart from any other human being that has ever lived. He is fully sanctified and fully conformed to the image of God.

*"We believe, and we know you are the Holy One of God."
— John 6:69*

being

What does a life look like that is set apart and holy?
Where do you still need to grow in holiness?

doing

What things will you refuse to do at work that will demonstrate God's call for you to be holy?
How is holiness costly?

Day eleven

knowing

Jesus is patient—Jesus supremely displays
God's patient character towards sinners.

"Jesus' brothers said to him, 'Leave here and go to Judea, where your followers can see your miracles! You can't become famous if you hide like this! If you can do such wonderful things, show yourself to the world!' For even his brothers didn't believe in him. Jesus replied, 'Now is not the right time for me to go, but you can go anytime.'"
— John 7:3-6

being

When you feel rejected what is your default response?
As a Christian, are you ever really rejected?
How does this bring hope?

doing

Who are the people it is hard to be patient with?
How might God want to use you to show His patience?

Day twelve

knowing

Jesus is uniquely wise—Jesus' deep understanding of God, people, and situations derived from His relationship with God, not from human training.

"The people were surprised when they heard him. 'How does he know so much when he hasn't been trained?' they asked. So Jesus told them, 'My message is not my own; it comes from God who sent me.'"
— John 7:15-16

being

Where does a Christian obtain wisdom?
How is this different from knowledge?

doing

The Bible says the fear (or reverence) of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. What is something you can do today to demonstrate a God-honoring life of reverence?

Day thirteen

knowing

Jesus discriminates—Jesus only said what the Father told Him to say. Nothing more. Nothing less.

"When you have lifted up the Son of Man on the cross, then you will understand that I Am He. I do nothing on my own but say only what the Father taught me."

— John 8:28

being

How might you demonstrate godliness in the things you choose to talk about and in the things you choose not to say?

doing

Is there something God might be leading you to say to someone today? Is there something you were planning on saying but shouldn't?

Day fourteen

knowing

Jesus is obedient—Jesus joyfully and perfectly obeyed the will of God.

*"And the one who sent me is with me—he has not deserted me. For I always do what pleases him."
— John 8:29*

being

How can obedience be pleasurable?
What is the difference between joyful obedience and mere obedience?

doing

What will people think if they see you delighted in obeying Christ? Who can you show that joy to today? What will that look like?

The background of the image is a dark teal or forest green color, filled with numerous out-of-focus, warm-toned circular lights. These lights vary in size and brightness, creating a bokeh effect that suggests a festive or nighttime setting, like Christmas lights. The text is centered in the middle of the frame.

week
three

Day fifteen

knowing

Jesus is perfect—Jesus is perfection incarnate.
He is without stain, sin, or error in every way.

“Which of you can truthfully accuse me of sin? And since I am telling you the truth, why don’t you believe me? Anyone who belongs to God listens gladly to the words of God. But you don’t listen because you don’t belong to God.”

– John 8:46-47

being

Who can currently accuse you of sin?
Who can accuse you of gladly obeying the Words of God?

doing

How might you show others an ever growing commitment to holiness? Who is going to see you growing in joy?

Day sixteen

knowing

Jesus is compassionate—Jesus has a loving concern for the lowly and needy. His words and deeds show God's merciful and gracious nature.

"When Jesus saw her weeping and saw the other people wailing with her, a deep anger welled up within him, and he was deeply troubled. 'Where have you put him?' he asked them. They told him, 'Lord, come and see.' Then Jesus wept. The people who were standing nearby said, 'See how much he loved him!'"

— John 11:33-36

being

What words of emotion do you identify with?
How does Jesus bring healing to you?

doing

What emotions do your friends,
family, neighbors or coworkers struggle with?
How might Jesus use you to bring healing?

Day seventeen

knowing

Jesus is powerful—Jesus has authority over things like no other person has authority.

"Jesus responded, 'Didn't I tell you that you would see God's glory if you believe?' So they rolled the stone aside. Then Jesus looked up to heaven and said, 'Father, thank you for hearing me. You always hear me, but I said it out loud for the sake of all these people standing here, so that they will believe you sent me.' Then Jesus shouted, 'Lazarus, come out!' And the dead man came out, his hands and feet bound in grave clothes, his face wrapped in a head cloth. Jesus told them, 'Unwrap him and let him go!' Many of the people who were with Mary believed in Jesus when they saw this happen."

— John 11:40-45

being

Do you see God's power and glory at work in your life as you grow in belief?

doing

Do other people see God's power and glory at work in your life as you grow in belief?

Day eighteen

knowing

Jesus is humble—Jesus deserved all of the honor and glory due to God, but He also set aside His own glory to come and rescue us.

"So he got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist, and poured water into a basin. Then he began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel he had around him."

— John 13:4-5

being

How are you learning to set your needs aside for others?

doing

What might be a modern day equivalent of washing someone's feet that you could do to serve someone today?

Day nineteen

knowing

Jesus is glorious—God’s radiance and splendor are most perfectly displayed on Jesus Christ.

“And since God receives glory because of the Son, he will give his own glory to the Son, and he will do so at once.”

– John 13:32

being

How would you define glory?
How does Jesus give glory to God?
How can we give glory to God?

doing

How will other people see the radiance and beauty of Christ on you? What is one creative way you could do this today?

Day twenty

knowing

Jesus loves—The best picture of Jesus' love, is and always will be, the cross.

"There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends."
— John 15:13

being

How will His love transform us?
What areas of your life need His love the most.

doing

How will His love propel you to love others?
What is one or two acts of love that you could do for someone today?

Day twenty-one

knowing

Jesus is peace—Jesus' peace comes from His comfort and familiarity with the Father.

"Do you finally believe? But the time is coming—indeed it's here now—when you will be scattered, each one going his own way, leaving me alone. Yet I am not alone because the Father is with me. I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world."
— John 16:31-33

being

How can knowing and being in relationship with God give our hearts peace today? What trials are you facing that God wants to bring His peace?

doing

How will knowing and being in relationship with you help others see God's peace? Name a few people who need God's peace today.



week
four

Day twenty-two

knowing

Jesus reveals—Jesus' mission was to reveal the Father to His people.

"I have revealed you (God) to the ones you gave me from this world. They were always yours. You gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything I have is a gift from you, for I have passed on to them the message you gave me. They accepted it and know that I came from you, and they believe you sent me."

— John 17:6-8

being

You have always been His. In fact, He gave you to Christ as a special gift for His obedience.
How does this revelation comfort you?

doing

How can your life be a gift today? Is there someone to love or something you could give that God might be laying on your heart for today?

Day twenty-three

knowing

Jesus prays for His people—Jesus is faithfully committed to the ones that belong to Him.
He petitions the Father for us.

"My prayer is not for the world, but for those you have given me, because they belong to you. All who are mine belong to you, and you have given them to me, so they bring me glory. Now I am departing from the world; they are staying in this world, but I am coming to you."
— John 17:5

being

Why does Jesus pray for us?
How will this help us as we remain in this world?

doing

Who are the people we need to be praying for?
At work? At home? At church? Neighbors? Rulers?

Day twenty-four

knowing

Jesus shares—Jesus not only experiences eternal joy with God the Father and the Spirit, but He shares that joy with us.

“Now I am coming to you. I told them many things while I was with them in this world so they would be filled with my joy.”

— John 17:13

being

Are you filled with joy today?
How can you have more joy?

doing

How can you share Jesus' joy?
What radical act of grace could you do today that would demonstrate your joy for Christ and others?

Day twenty-five

knowing

Jesus sacrifices—Jesus did what an animal couldn't do.

He offers permanent forgiveness so that we can
find permanent satisfaction in Him.

"And I give myself as a holy sacrifice for them so they can be made holy by your truth. May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me. Father, I want these whom you have given me to be with me where I am. Then they can see all the glory you gave me because you loved me even before the world began! 'O righteous Father, the world doesn't know you, but I do; and these disciples know you sent me. I have revealed you to them, and I will continue to do so. Then your love for me will be in them, and I will be in them.'"

— John 17:19, 23-26

being

Do you see growth in holiness over the last year?

Do you see and experience God's love more than last year?

How will next year be different?

Obedience is not a set of rules we obey to make God love us.

Obedience is a delightful response because God loves us.

doing

What is the one thing you want others to learn about God this year because of you? How can you start showing them today?

Over this Advent season at GENESIS,
we have focused on Jesus Christ, who is the
light that has come into this dark world.

The Gospel of John proclaims –
***“The Word gave life to everything that was
created, and his life brought light to everyone.”***

Now, Light Has Come. And the beauty and
power of this Light is that it forever changes
everything and all people for all time.

Over the last few weeks, we have seen many of
the ways that Christ’s coming not only changes
everything about who we are but also how we
relate to others. Because He is the Light of the
world, we are sent out into this dark world
as bright and shining lights.

The Gospel of John proclaims –
***“Jesus spoke to the people once more and said,
‘I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you
won’t have to walk in darkness, because you
will have the light that leads to life.’”***

now go and be that light!

*If you have enjoyed this Advent devotional, be on the lookout for our
upcoming series on the entire book of John, called Simply Jesus.*

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